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Weekly Situation Report on International Terrorism

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ARTICLES

Argentine Terrorism and the World Cup Soccer Games

Leading members of the Argentine Peronist Montonero Movement (MPM) have stated in press conferences since October 1977 that the Montoneros will not hinder the playing of the 1978 World Cup soccer games in Argentina during June 1978. They have publicly invited reporters, tourists and players to Argentina to see the "existing repression", and have guaranteed that no action will be taken against them by the political wing of the MPM; however, they also have noted that they cannot be responsible for the military arm of the MPM.

They claim that in Argentina the state is the terrorist and that the holding of the World Cup championships will serve the purposes of the Argentine opposition groups because foreign journalists covering the games will be able to see for themselves the true nature of the ruling military junta.

Notwithstanding these public statements, there are indications that the Montoneros have terrorist operations planned against the soccer games. A Montonero member captured in Uruguay during mid-December 1977 told authorities that the MPM was creating a mechanism to support operations in Argentina in June 1978 during the games. He added that the Montoneros have planned to mount at least two spectacular terrorist operations in each of the cities in Argentina where the games will be held. The objective is to attract world attention to their organization and to demonstrate that the Montonero movement is not defeated.

3.3(b)(1) [redacted] unconfirmed information on the existence of two special Montonero combat groups in Argentina consisting of four to five men each. These men are considered the best cadre the Montoneros have in Argentina; they have been trained abroad and are of high caliber and extremely dangerous. The government is very anxious to confirm their existence [redacted].

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an Argentine who is in charge of Montonero terrorist operations in Argentina, was in Brazil to participate in sessions with several other terrorist organizations to plan a "wave of terror" during the games. reported that the Montoneros have weapons cached near the Argentine/Brazilian border to be used in the terrorist activities. The weapons were reportedly being held for the arrival in Brazil of several unidentified, high-level international terrorist activists. 3.3(b)(1) 3.3(b)(1) 3.3(b)(1)

Argentine authorities also believe that the terrorists may conduct a spectacular operation during the games such as destroying the color TV broadcasting station, interfering with satellite communication systems, or something similar.

In response to these indications of Montonero activities, the government has formed a special brigade within the army to protect the games. The army has been given responsibility for controlling subversive activities and adopting the means to prevent them from occurring during the games.

The Argentine government has assessed the strength of the Montoneros at about 600 inside and outside the country, including those serving in support capacities. The government estimates that there are also several hundred sympathizers who are inclined to be activists but who have not yet participated in Montonero violence.

The Argentine armed forces do not believe that the Montoneros will engage in activities such as bombing the stadium while the public is there. The government believes, instead, that the Montoneros will concentrate on a propaganda campaign.

In addition to press conferences and covert operational planning, the Montoneros are planning to initiate an extensive propaganda campaign during the games. Propaganda methods will include the distribution of posters depicting the stadium where the matches are to be held surrounded by barbed wire and the circulation of rumors about the appearance of corpses and the existence of concentration camps holding thousands of people.

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There has been no confirmation of the planned violence or of cooperation between foreign groups to carry out terrorist incidents during the soccer games. While on the one hand the information indicates that the political faction of the MPM does not intend to carry out terrorist operations, there is also conflicting information indicating that the military faction of the MPM may be seriously considering terrorist operations during the games. It is too early to determine the real possibility of terrorist operations against either the Argentine society or visitors to the soccer games. Based on public statements by MPM representatives and the decrease in large-scale terrorist operations during the recent months, it is unlikely that the MPM will carry out a Munich-type terrorist operation, since the public reaction would cause more problems than benefit.

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